

Senate Bill 308

By: Senator Mullis of the 53rd

**AS PASSED**

**AN ACT**

To amend Chapter 4 of Title 25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to firefighter standards and training, so as to provide definitions; to provide for certain powers and functions of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council with regard to airport firefighters; to provide for certain training for airport firefighters; to repeal Article 2 of such chapter, relating to airport firefighters; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

**SECTION 1.**

Chapter 4 of Title 25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to firefighter standards and training, is amended by striking Code Section 25-4-2, relating to definitions, and inserting in lieu thereof a new Code Section 25-4-2 to read as follows:

"25-4-2.

As used in this chapter, the term:

- (1) 'Airport' means any airport located in this state which has regularly scheduled commercial air carrier service or commuter airline service as required for certification under Section 139.49 of the Federal Aviation Administration regulations.
- (2) 'Airport firefighter' means any person assigned to any airport located in this state who performs the duties of aircraft fire fighting or rescue.
- (3) 'Candidate' means a prospective firefighter who has not yet been certified by the council as having met the requirements of this chapter.
- (4) 'Certified firefighter' or 'state certified firefighter' means any firefighter who has been certified by the council as having met the requirements of this chapter.
- (5) 'Council' means the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.
- (6) 'Firefighter' means a trained individual who is a full-time employee, part-time employee, or volunteer for a municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department and as such has duties of responding to mitigate a variety of emergency and

nonemergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk, which may include without limitation fire suppression; fire prevention activities; emergency medical services; hazardous materials response and preparedness; technical rescue operations; search and rescue; disaster management and preparedness; community service activities; response to civil disturbances and terrorism incidents; nonemergency functions including training, preplanning, communications, maintenance, and physical conditioning; and other related emergency and nonemergency duties as may be assigned or required; provided, however, that a firefighter's assignments may vary based on geographic, climatic, and demographic conditions or other factors including training, experience, and ability.

(7) 'Full-time' means employed for compensation on a basis of at least 40 hours per week by any municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department.

(8) 'Part-time' means employed for compensation on less than a full-time basis by any municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department.

(9) 'Volunteer' means not employed for compensation by but appointed and regularly enrolled to serve as a firefighter for any municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department."

## **SECTION 2.**

Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 25-4-7, relating to the functions and powers of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council, and inserting in lieu thereof a new Code Section 25-4-7 to read as follows:

"25-4-7.

The council is vested with the following functions and powers:

- (1) To promulgate rules and regulations for the administration of the council;
- (2) To provide rules of procedure for its internal management and control;
- (3) To enter into contracts or do such things as may be necessary and incidental to the administration of its authority pursuant to this chapter;
- (4) To establish uniform minimum standards for the employment and training of full-time, part-time, or volunteer firefighters, airport firefighters, fire and life safety educators, fire inspectors, and fire investigators, including qualifications, certifications, recertifications, decertifications, and requirements, which are consistent with this chapter;
- (5) To establish minimum curriculum requirements for schools operated by or for any employing agency for the specific purpose of training firefighter recruits or full-time,

part-time, or volunteer firefighters, airport firefighters, fire and life safety educators, fire inspectors, and fire investigators;

(6) To approve institutions and facilities for school operation by or for any employing agency for the specific purpose of training firefighters and firefighter recruits, including airport firefighters;

(7) To make or support studies on any aspect of fire-fighting education and training or recruitment;

(8) To make recommendations concerning any matter within its purview;

(9) To establish basic firefighter training requirements for full-time, part-time, and volunteer firefighters, including airport firefighters;

(10) To certify any person satisfactorily complying with the training program established in accordance with paragraph (9) of this Code section and the qualifications for employment covered in this chapter; and

(11) To issue a certificate to any person who has received training in another state or who has received training as a federal firefighter by the United States government, when the council has determined that the training was at least equivalent to that required by the council for approved firefighter education and training programs in this state and when the person has satisfactorily complied with all other requirements of this chapter."

### SECTION 3.

Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 25-4-9, relating to basic firefighter training courses, and inserting in lieu thereof a new Code Section 25-4-9 to read as follows:

"25-4-9.

(a) Full-time, part-time, and volunteer firefighters, including airport firefighters, shall successfully complete a basic training course. The council shall determine the course content, number of hours, and all other matters relative to basic firefighter training, including airport rescue firefighter training. Upon satisfactory completion of such basic training, a firefighter shall be issued a certificate of completion evidencing the same. Each firefighter shall be required to successfully complete such basic training course within 12 months after being employed or appointed as a firefighter or, in the case of airport firefighters, within such time period as the council may prescribe by rule or regulation.

(b) A firefighter certified by the council may, upon termination of employment from any fire department and upon agreement with a subsequently employing fire department, transfer such certification to the employing fire department.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section, any local fire department may refuse to accept the transfer of previously acquired certification and may require any newly employed firefighter to complete the basic training course provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section."

#### **SECTION 4.**

Said chapter is further amended by repealing Article 2, relating to airport firefighters, in its entirety and by deleting the Article 1 designation.

#### **SECTION 5.**

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.